

GOOD AFTERNOON:

MY NAME IS, FRANK RODRIGUEZ, A LIFE-TIME RESIDENT OF SOUTHWEST DETROIT ... I LIVE IN THE HUBBARD FARMS HISTORIC DISTRICT, WHICH IS LOCATED NORTH OF THE I-75 EXPRESSWAY; WEST OF W.GRAND BLVD; AND IN THE SHADOW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE.

I'VE BEEN EMPLOYED AS A LICENSED REALTOR SINCE 1979; AND CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THE GRASS-ROOTS EFFORTS OF THE LOCAL CITIZENRY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. AND WHENEVER IT IS GREATLY NEEDED.

AS THE TIRES OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADE CROSSING ARE CONTINUED TO BE KICKED AND PRODDED, THE DELRAY COMMUNITY WHOLE-HEARTEDLY STRIVES TO DEMAND COMMUNITY BENEFITS AS PART OF THE APPROVAL PROCESS... AND REMAINS STRONG IN THIS REQUEST.

I WANT TO THANK THE CHAIRMAN, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR, NOT ONLY ALLOWING & ACCEPTING CONTINUED DIALOGUE & INPUT FROM THE SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMUNITY; BUT ALSO, RECENTLY, FOR TAKING THE HISTORIC SELF-INITIATIVE, ALONG WITH STAFF, AND OTHER SENATE & STATE REPRESENTATIVES FOR TRAVELING INTO THE INNER-CITY OF DETROIT & WINDSOR IN ORDER TO GLEAN TRUTH FROM THE CURRENT DISINFORMATION AND TO CONDUCT YOUR FACT-FINDING "ON-SITE" INVESTIGATION OF THE "PROPOSED NITC FOOT-PRINT."

AS A YOUTH, GROWING-UP IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT, DURING THE LATTER-PART OF THE 1950'S, I'VE EXPERIENCED THE DESTRUCTION AND DIVISION OF THE COMMUNITY VIA THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE I-75 EXPRESSWAY. FURTHER NEGATIVE DETERIORATION FOLLOWED WITH THE CLOSING OF LOCAL AUTO-PLANTS ALONG THE W.FORT STREET CORRIDOR, DURING ANOTHER ECONOMIC DOWNTURN DURING THE 1970'S.

THE DELRAY & SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMUNITY IS HOST TO MANY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3RD AND OLDER GENERATION FAMILIES; WHO HAVE REMAINED THE COURSE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, DESPITE THE ODDS, AND HAVE INVESTED THEIR OWN HARD-EARNED MONEY AND SWEAT-EQUITY.


WE ARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW ERA FOR THE CITY OF DETROIT. THERE ARE LOCAL ENDEAVORS THAT WE SHOULD

ALL BE PROUD OF: \* THE BAGLEY STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE HAS BEEN OPENED; IT RE-CONNECTS THE COMMUNITY THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY LOST; AND BRINGS NEW LIFE AND COMMERCE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. \* THE FINAL COMPLETION OF THE MIS-UNDERSTOOD MDOT "GATEWAY PROJECT" IS ANTICIPATED SHORTLY; WHICH HOPEFULLY SHALL IMPROVE ON SOME OF THE SAFETY CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY RAISED.

\*THE CITY OF DETROIT, THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, THE REGION; IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITS STALWART ALLIE/CANADA SHALL ALL SERVE AS THE "NEW GATEWAY TO THE WORLD" IN ORDER TO ANTICIPATE, GROW WITH, AND RESPOND ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF GLOBAL ECONOMY.

- THE NITC PROJECT PROPOSAL BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE IS NOT NEW, ONLY THE NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED. LED BY THE LOCAL "COMMUNITY BENEFITS COALITION" ORGANIZATION, GRASS-ROOTS "DUE-DELIGENCE" HAS BEEN THE WATCHWORD; AND HAS BEEN CONTINUING FOR THE PAST 9-10 YEARS. IT IS INCORRECT TO STATE INTO THE RECORD THAT THIS IS ALL HAPPENING TOO SOON; TOO FAST; THAT MORE INPUT IS REQUIRED; THAT WE NEED THIRD-PARTY APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL FROM THE GOOD STATE OF IOWA.
- I HOPE THAT THIS HONORABLE COMMITTEE CAN BRING THIS INQUISITION TO AN END; TO DO WHAT IS JUST AND RIGHT; AND COMPLETE THEIR MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE PUBLIC AND RECOMMEND TO THE FINAL-BODY ITS APPROVAL AND GOOD-WILL BLESSING OF THE NITC.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

  
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